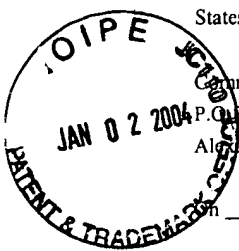


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 011674-001211US



Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 29, 2003

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Mark T. Davis

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Robert S. Bierwith

Application No.: 10/713,233

Filed: November 13, 2003

For: LIP ASSEMBLY

Examiner: Victor Baston

Art Unit: 3671

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 and  
§1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The references cited on attached form PTO/SB/08A are being called to the attention of the Examiner. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of the references can be found in Application No. 10/054,332, filed November 13, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. 011674-001210US). It is respectfully requested that the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

As provided for by 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), no inference should be made that the information and references cited are prior art merely because they are in this statement and no

representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all the possible relevant information.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this statement.

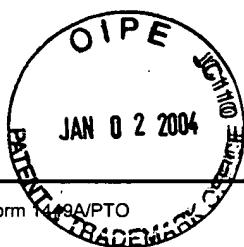
However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 20-1430. Please deduct any additional fees from, or credit any overpayment to, the above-noted Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patrick R. Jewik', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick R. Jewik  
Reg. No. 40,456

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
PRJ:mtd  
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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

|  |   |                          |                     |                        |                 |
|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Substitute for form PTO/SB/08A/PTO</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                     |                        |                 |
|  |   | Application Number       | 10/713,233          |                        |                 |
|  |   | Filing Date              | November 13, 2003   |                        |                 |
|  |   | First Named Inventor     | Bierwith, Robert S. |                        |                 |
|  |   | Art Unit                 | 3671                |                        |                 |
|  |   | Examiner Name            | Victor Baston       |                        |                 |
| Sheet  | 1 | of                       | 1                   | Attorney Docket Number | 011674-001211US |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS+ |                          |   |                                |  |   |
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| Examiner<br>Initials*  | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |                     |                                   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | T <sup>5</sup>           |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |  |                          |
|                          | AZ                    | WO                        | 99/66135            |                                   | 12-23-1999                     |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Kind Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.  
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